



## **2014-2015 NEAR EAST, SOUTH ASIA, & SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

**A program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State**

### **Introduction**

The Near East, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa Undergraduate Exchange Program (NESA UGRAD Program), which is part of the Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD Program), is managed by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). Launched in 2007, NESA UGRAD was originally created to provide a substantive exchange experience at a U.S. college or university for students from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia for one year of undergraduate, non-degree studies at a diverse network of accredited two- and four-year institutions. In 2013, the NESA UGRAD program expanded to include emerging student leaders from underrepresented sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa. While in the U.S. participants complete twenty hours of community service, cultural enrichment activities, and a local internship during the second semester.

### **Participant Eligibility:**

NESA UGRAD is a merit-based competition. Applicants must be a citizen, national, or permanent resident qualified to hold a valid passport issued by the country from which the applicant is applying. Applicants must be full-time students and in good academic standing between the ages of 18-25. This program seeks a diverse group of participants. Applicants from underrepresented backgrounds and students who have not had previous overseas study or extensive foreign travel are encouraged to apply. Applicants with lower TOEFL scores may take additional English language coursework if necessary. Applicants should have a desire to engage with U.S. communities and to participate in community service activities. Students must be committed to returning to their home country after completion of the program.

### **Selection Process:**

The Selection Committee is comprised of exchange experts from the U.S. Embassy, Fulbright Commission, Program Alumni, etc. The Committee will determine the most qualified applicants for participation and produce a ranked nomination list of principals and alternates to send to ECA for final review and selection.

The materials that will be reviewed are:

- 1) Application (including supplemental form)**
- 2) Personal Statement**
- 3) Two letters of recommendation**
- 4) Official transcripts**
- 5) TOEFL score (if available)**